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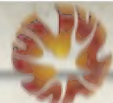
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OFFICIAL HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE MAGAZINE

A-LEAGUE



HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE 2007/08 SEASON 35 A-LEAGUE.COM.AU



TALAY HO!

UFUK AND SYDNEY FC ARE LOOKING FOR GLORY GO TO p48



SYDNEY FC
VS
PERTH GLORY



16 DECEMBER 7PM, SYDNEY FOOTBALL STADIUM, SYDNEY



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THE Full 90



LACING UP

News, stats, fixtures and more, including...

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The Victory need to knock off the Jets

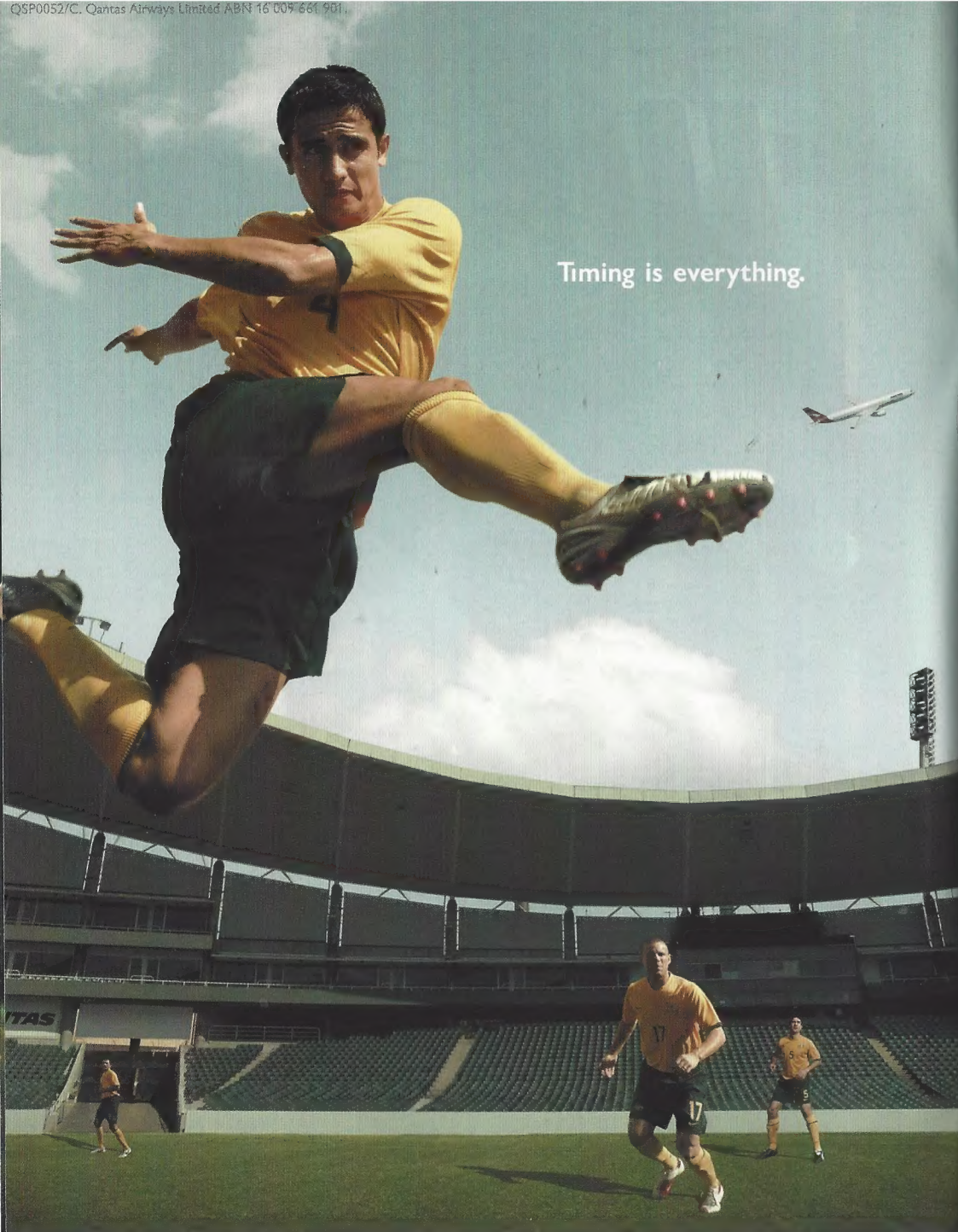
IN MY OWN WORDS

66 Jacob Timpano

This lolly-lover wants to be Spider-Man



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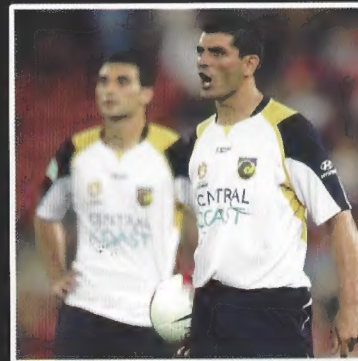
LACING UP

News, stats, fixtures and more

THE LOWDOWN

CHRISTMAS CHEER

Defenders were full of the festive spirit last round, contributing a couple of gift-wrapped own goals *by Jon Ritson*



Richie Alagich was recently voted as Adelaide United's best would-be Santa by a colleague. Ernie Merrick certainly has reason to thank the man in red and white after his injury-time header handed Melbourne Victory a Finals Series lifeline. He bulleted a header past his own keeper Eugene Galekovic to deny his team the sweet taste of Grand Final revenge. On the plus side two goals from Paul

Agostino suggests a striker finding goal-scoring form at the right time.

In the battle of first versus second Tony Vidmar was the second defender to play Santa, netting the Roar's equaliser and then helping deflect Matt McKay's winner past the outstanding Danny Vukovic. An exciting tussle now beckons for the Premiership over the closing rounds.

Perth chose to sink rather than swim after meeting Ian Thorpe in the build-up to their game in Wellington. They went back to the bottom after a 3-0 thrashing which saw early showers for Nikolai Topor-Stanley and Jamie Harnwell. Shane Smeltz's two goals hauled him back into the race for the Hyundai A-League's Reebok Golden Boot.

Sydney and the Jets played out a rather tame New South Wales derby until Steve Corica roused the home fans with an injury-time winner. It leaves John Kosmina's men well-placed for a Finals Series push just a point adrift of their vanquished visitors and with a game in hand.

IN THE BOX

YELLOW CARDS:

19

RED CARDS:

3

GOALS:

11

GOAL OF THE WEEK:

Shane Smeltz's header to wrap a 3-0 victory for Wellington Phoenix over Perth Glory

QUICKEST GOAL:

13 minutes (John Aloisi's opener for the Mariners in their 2-1 defeat to Queensland)

BIGGEST CROWD:

22,466 (Melbourne Victory versus Adelaide United at the Telstra Dome)



WELLINGTON 3 PERTH 0



FRIDAY, WESTPAC STADIUM



Just when you thought you'd shut the cellar door behind you along comes a Wellington boot to send you tumbling back into the darkness. Dave Mitchell's side had enjoyed a week at the dizzy heights of seventh spot before this thrashing saw Ricki Herbert's men leapfrog them again.

Nikolai Topor-Stanley's foul on Vaughan Coveny saw the Perth defender dismissed with Shane Smeltz slamming in the 29th minute penalty. Felipe tucked in Smeltz's cross two minutes later before David Micevski rattled the crossbar for Perth in first half stoppage time.

Vince Lia had a third goal ruled out but Smeltz completed the rout with a header from Lia's cross on 71 minutes, before Jamie Harnwell was also dismissed.

FAST FACTS

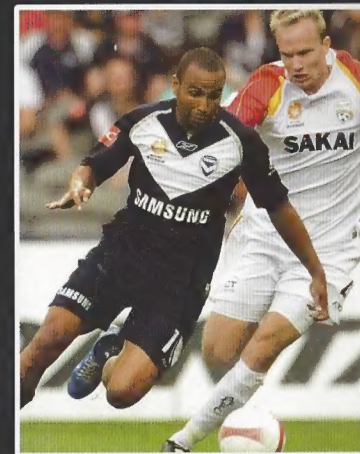
This was the fourth week in a row the Phoenix found themselves playing against a team reduced to 10 men



MELBOURNE 2 ADELAIDE 2



SATURDAY, TELSTRA DOME



Richie Alagich powered an injury-time equaliser into the back of his own net to rescue a point for Melbourne. Ernie Merrick's men looked to have kissed goodbye to their Finals Series hopes after Paul Agostino struck twice from close range, first on 18 minutes and then four minutes into the second half.

The home side were offered a lifeline when Archie Thompson went tumbling under the challenge of Tomi Milardovic on 71 minutes. Kevin Muscat slammed home the penalty but it seemed destined to be no more than a consolation until Alagich intervened to divert Carlos Hernandez's set piece past his own keeper.

Adelaide suffered more disappointment with a late injury to striker Nathan Burns.

FAST FACTS

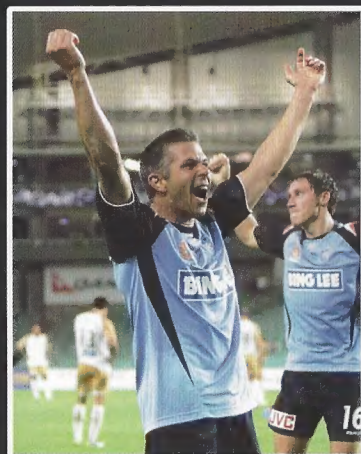
Victory have failed to win a single Hyundai A-League match in which they have conceded the first goal this season



SYDNEY 1 NEWCASTLE 0



FRIDAY, SYDNEY FOOTBALL STADIUM



The Jets were hit with a taste of their own last-gasp medicine as they succumbed to an injury-time winner from Steve Corica.

Having snatched the points at the death the week before, the visitors were the victims here as Sydney hauled themselves back into the mix for the top four.

Terry McFlynn's cross was directed past the otherwise excellent Ante Covic by the experienced playmaker to settle a largely forgettable New South Wales derby. It was harsh on Covic who had earlier denied Michael Bridges with a fine stop while Andrew Durante cleared off the line from the same player.

The visitors failed to capitalise on their numerical advantage following Ruben Zadkovich's red card in the second half.

FAST FACTS

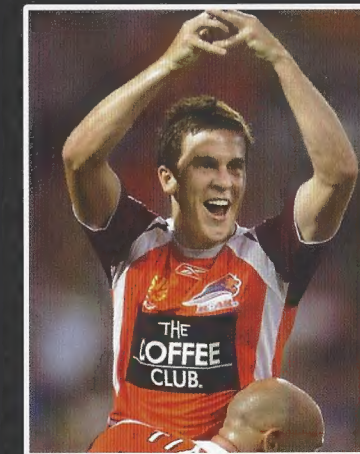
This was Sydney FC's third successive 1-0 victory over the Newcastle Jets in the Hyundai A-League this season



QUEENSLAND 2 CENTRAL COAST 1



SUNDAY, SUNCORP STADIUM



Tony Vidmar helped reignite the race for the Premiership as he first equalised for the Roar and then played a part in the Brisbane boys' winner.

The visitors got off to the perfect start in this first versus second clash with John Aloisi sliding in Matt Simon's cross for a 13th minute opener.

The home side took just eight minutes to level matters as Vidmar, under pressure from Reinaldo, turned the ball past Danny Vukovic from Robbie Kruse's cross.

The decisive goal came on 28 minutes with Danny Tiatto playing in Matty McKay. The midfielder's shot deflected off the unfortunate Vidmar and found the net.

Late in the match Greg Owens spurned a terrific chance to equalise for the Mariners.

FAST FACTS

Matt McKay is the first player to score a winning goal for the Roar against the Mariners at Suncorp Stadium

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Ballantine's

TRIVIA

Q: When did Aurelio and Tony Vidmar first play in the Australian National team together?



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THE HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE



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A: February 6 1991 v Czechoslovakia at Parramatta Stadium

BREAKDOWN!

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE 2007/08 SEASON

LADDER	POS	TEAM	Pd	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
	1	Central Coast Mariners	15	8	3	4	18	11	7	27
	2	Queensland Roar	16	7	5	4	19	15	4	26
	3	Adelaide United	16	5	8	3	24	19	5	23
	4	Newcastle Jets	16	5	7	4	14	14	0	22
	5	Sydney FC	15	5	6	4	14	13	1	21
	6	Melbourne Victory	16	3	8	5	16	21	-5	17
	7	Wellington Phoenix	16	4	4	8	21	27	-6	16
	8	Perth Glory	16	2	7	7	17	23	-6	13

SCORING	GOALS	PLAYER	CLUB
	7	Joel Griffiths	Newcastle Jets
	7	Shane Smeltz	Wellington Phoenix
	6	Alex Brosque	Sydney FC
	6	Jamie Harnwell	Perth Glory
	5	Sasho Petrovski	Central Coast Mariners
	4	Archie Thompson	Melbourne Victory
	4	Bruce Djite	Adelaide United
	4	Daniel	Wellington Phoenix
	4	Lucas Panțelis	Adelaide United
	4	Nikita Rukavytsya	Perth Glory
	4	Reinaldo	Queensland Roar
	4	Travis Dodd	Adelaide United

CROWD FIGURES	TEAM	HOME GAMES	AVERAGE	LOWEST	HIGHEST	TOTAL
	Adelaide United	7	11,429	10,256	13,372	80,001
	Central Coast Mariners	6	10,349	8,113	12,622	62,095
	Melbourne Victory	8	26,566	20,938	31,884	212,527
	Newcastle Jets	8	12,617	8,112	16,433	100,937
	Perth Glory	8	7,412	6,252	8,508	59,298
	Queensland Roar	9	14,781	8,815	17,207	133,028
	Sydney FC	9	14,926	10,732	18,457	134,337
	Wellington Phoenix	8	11,645	8,039	18,345	93,161
	TOTAL	63	13,895	6,252	31,884	875,384

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7 DECEMBER 2007

[illegible]

Fixtures 2007/08

ROUND	DATE	FIXTURE	SCORE	VENUE	KICK-OFF
ROUND 1	Fri, 24 Aug 07	Sydney FC v Central Coast Mariners	0-1	Sydney Football Stadium	8.00pm
	Sat, 25 Aug 07	Queensland Roar v Adelaide United	2-2	Suncorp Stadium	7.00pm
	Sun, 26 Aug 07	Wellington Phoenix v Melbourne Victory	2-2	Westpac Stadium	4.00pm
	Sun, 26 Aug 07	Perth Glory v Newcastle Jets	0-0	Members Equity Stadium	3.00pm
ROUND 2	Fri, 31 Aug 07	Central Coast Mariners v Wellington Phoenix	3-0	Bluetongue Stadium	8.00pm
	Sat, 1 Sep 07	Sydney FC v Adelaide United	2-2	Sydney Football Stadium	5.00pm
	Sat, 1 Sep 07	Melbourne Victory v Perth Glory	0-0	Telstra Dome	7.00pm
	Sun, 2 Sep 07	Newcastle Jets v Queensland Roar	1-1	EnergyAustralia Stadium	5.00pm
ROUND 3	Thur, 6 Sep 07	Queensland Roar v Central Coast Mariners	0-1	Suncorp Stadium	8.00pm
	Fri, 7 Sep 07	Adelaide United v Melbourne Victory	1-1	Hindmarsh Stadium	7.30pm
	Sun, 9 Sep 07	Wellington Phoenix v Newcastle Jets	0-1	Westpac Stadium	5.00pm
	Sun, 9 Sep 07	Perth Glory v Sydney FC	0-0	Members Equity Stadium	3.00pm
ROUND 4	Fri, 14 Sep 07	Sydney FC v Wellington Phoenix	1-2	Sydney Football Stadium	8.00pm
	Sat, 15 Sep 07	Newcastle Jets v Adelaide United	1-0	EnergyAustralia Stadium	7.00pm
	Sun, 16 Sep 07	Melbourne Victory v Central Coast Mariners	0-0	Telstra Dome	5.00pm
	Sun, 16 Sep 07	Perth Glory v Queensland Roar	1-2	Members Equity Stadium	5.00pm
ROUND 5	Fri, 21 Sep 07	Newcastle Jets v Melbourne Victory	2-2	EnergyAustralia Stadium	8.00pm
	Sat, 22 Sep 07	Wellington Phoenix v Adelaide United	2-2	Westpac Stadium	7.00pm
	Sat, 22 Sep 07	Queensland Roar v Sydney FC	0-1	Suncorp Stadium	7.00pm
	Sun, 23 Sep 07	Central Coast Mariners v Perth Glory	1-0	Bluetongue Stadium	5.00pm
ROUND 6	Fri, 28 Sep 07	Melbourne Victory v Queensland Roar	2-0	Telstra Dome	8.00pm
	Sat, 29 Sep 07	Sydney FC v Newcastle Jets	1-0	Sydney Football Stadium	7.00pm
	Sun, 30 Sep 07	Wellington Phoenix v Perth Glory	4-1	Westpac Stadium	5.00pm
	Sun, 30 Sep 07	Adelaide United v Central Coast Mariners	2-1	Hindmarsh Stadium	4.30pm
ROUND 7	Fri, 5 Oct 07	Queensland Roar v Wellington Phoenix	2-1	Suncorp Stadium	8.00pm
	Sat, 6 Oct 07	Sydney FC v Melbourne Victory	0-1	Sydney Football Stadium	7.00pm
	Sun, 7 Oct 07	Central Coast Mariners v Newcastle Jets	1-1	Bluetongue Stadium	5.00pm
	Sun, 7 Oct 07	Perth Glory v Adelaide United	0-0	Members Equity Stadium	5.00pm
ROUND 8	Fri, 12 Oct 07	Adelaide United v Melbourne Victory	4-1	Hindmarsh Stadium	7.30pm
	Fri, 12 Oct 07	Perth Glory v Sydney FC	3-3	Members Equity Stadium	8.00pm
	Sun, 14 Oct 07	Newcastle Jets v Wellington Phoenix	2-1	EnergyAustralia Stadium	3.00pm
	Sun, 14 Oct 07	Central Coast Mariners v Queensland Roar	0-1	Bluetongue Stadium	5.00pm
ROUND 9	Fri, 19 Oct 07	Newcastle Jets v Queensland Roar	1-1	EnergyAustralia Stadium	8.00pm
	Sat, 20 Oct 07	Sydney FC v Adelaide United	0-1	Sydney Football Stadium	7.00pm
	Sun, 21 Oct 07	Wellington Phoenix v Central Coast Mariners	1-2	Westpac Stadium	5.00pm
	Sun, 21 Oct 07	Melbourne Victory v Perth Glory	2-1	Telstra Dome	4.30pm
ROUND 10	Fri, 26 Oct 07	Melbourne Victory v Newcastle Jets	0-2	Telstra Dome	8.00pm
	Sat, 27 Oct 07	Queensland Roar v Perth Glory	3-3	Suncorp Stadium	7.00pm
	Sun, 28 Oct 07	Sydney FC v Central Coast Mariners	3-2	Sydney Football Stadium	3.00pm
	Sun, 28 Oct 07	Adelaide United v Wellington Phoenix	4-1	Hindmarsh Stadium	4.30pm
ROUND 11	Fri, 2 Nov 07	Adelaide United v Queensland Roar	0-1	Hindmarsh Stadium	7.30pm
	Fri, 2 Nov 07	Perth Glory v Wellington Phoenix	0-1	Members Equity Stadium	8.00pm
	Sat, 3 Nov 07	Newcastle Jets v Sydney FC	0-1	EnergyAustralia Stadium	7.00pm
	Sun, 4 Nov 07	Central Coast Mariners v Melbourne Victory	2-1	Bluetongue Stadium	5.00pm

ROUND	DATE	FIXTURE	SCORE	VENUE	KICK-OFF
ROUND 12	Fri, 9 Nov 07	Newcastle Jets v Perth Glory	1-4	EnergyAustralia Stadium	8.00pm
	Sat, 10 Nov 07	Central Coast Mariners v Adelaide United	2-0	Bluetongue Stadium	5.00pm
	Sat, 10 Nov 07	Melbourne Victory v Sydney FC	0-0	Telstra Dome	7.00pm
	Sun, 11 Nov 07	Queensland Roar v Wellington Phoenix	3-0	Suncorp Stadium	5.00pm
ROUND 13	Fri, 16 Nov 07	Queensland Roar v Melbourne Victory	1-0	Suncorp Stadium	7.00pm
	Sat, 17 Nov 07	Wellington Phoenix v Sydney FC	1-1	Westpac Stadium	7.00pm
	Sun, 18 Nov 07	Adelaide United v Newcastle Jets	1-1	Hindmarsh Stadium	6.30pm
	Sun, 18 Nov 07	Perth Glory v Central Coast Mariners	0-1	Members Equity Stadium	7.00pm
ROUND 14	Fri, 23 Nov 07	Adelaide United v Perth Glory	1-1	Hindmarsh Stadium	7.30pm
	Sat, 24 Nov 07	Melbourne Victory v Wellington Phoenix	1-1	Telstra Dome	7.00pm
	Sun, 25 Nov 07	Newcastle Jets v Central Coast Mariners	0-0	EnergyAustralia Stadium	5.00pm
	Sun, 25 Nov 07	Sydney FC v Queensland Roar	0-0	Sydney Football Stadium	7.00pm
ROUND 15	Fri, 30 Nov 07	Wellington Phoenix v Adelaide United	1-2	Westpac Stadium	7.30pm
	Fri, 30 Nov 07	Queensland Roar v Newcastle Jets	0-1	Suncorp Stadium	7.00pm
	Sat, 22 Dec 07	Central Coast Mariners v Sydney FC		Bluetongue Stadium	7.00pm
	Sun, 2 Dec 07	Perth Glory v Melbourne Victory	3-1	Members Equity Stadium	5.00pm
ROUND 16	Fri, 7 Dec 07	Wellington Phoenix v Perth Glory	3-0	Westpac Stadium	7.30pm
	Fri, 7 Dec 07	Sydney FC v Newcastle Jets	1-0	Sydney Football Stadium	8.00pm
	Sat, 8 Dec 07	Melbourne Victory v Adelaide United	2-2	Telstra Dome	7.00pm
	Sun, 9 Dec 07	Queensland Roar v Central Coast Mariners	2-1	Suncorp Stadium	6.00pm
ROUND 17	Fri, 14 Dec 07	Wellington Phoenix v Queensland Roar		Westpac Stadium	7.30pm
	Fri, 14 Dec 07	Adelaide United v Central Coast Mariners		Hindmarsh Stadium	7.30pm
	Sat, 15 Dec 07	Sydney FC v Perth Glory		Sydney Football Stadium	7.00pm
	Sun, 16 Dec 07	Melbourne Victory v Newcastle Jets		Telstra Dome	5.00pm

CHRISTMAS BREAK

ROUND 18	Fri, 28 Dec 07	Adelaide United v Sydney FC		Adelaide Oval	7.30pm
	Sun, 30 Dec 07	Newcastle Jets v Wellington Phoenix		EnergyAustralia Stadium	7.00pm
	Sun, 30 Dec 07	Perth Glory v Queensland Roar		Members Equity Stadium	7.00pm
	Mon, 31 Dec 07	Central Coast Mariners v Melbourne Victory		Bluetongue Stadium	6.00pm
ROUND 19	Fri, 4 Jan 08	Wellington Phoenix v Sydney FC		Westpac Stadium	7.30pm
	Fri, 4 Jan 08	Newcastle Jets v Adelaide United		EnergyAustralia Stadium	8.00pm
	Sat, 5 Jan 08	Queensland Roar v Melbourne Victory		Suncorp Stadium	7.00pm
	Sun, 6 Jan 08	Perth Glory v Central Coast Mariners		Members Equity Stadium	7.00pm
ROUND 20	Fri, 11 Jan 08	Melbourne Victory v Wellington Phoenix		Telstra Dome	8.00pm
	Sat, 12 Jan 08	Central Coast Mariners v Newcastle Jets		Bluetongue Stadium	7.00pm
	Sun, 13 Jan 08	Queensland Roar v Sydney FC		Suncorp Stadium	6.00pm
	Sun, 13 Jan 08	Perth Glory v Adelaide United		Members Equity Stadium	7.00pm
ROUND 21	Fri, 18 Jan 08	Newcastle Jets v Perth Glory		EnergyAustralia Stadium	8.00pm
	Sat, 19 Jan 08	Central Coast Mariners v Wellington Phoenix		Bluetongue Stadium	7.00pm
	Sun, 20 Jan 08	Sydney FC v Melbourne Victory		Sydney Football Stadium	5.00pm
	Sun, 20 Jan 08	Adelaide United v Queensland Roar		Hindmarsh Stadium	6.30pm

FINALS	WEEK 1		SEMI FINAL 1st LEG	WEEK 3	PRELIMINARY FINAL
	Fri, 25 or Sun, 27 Jan 08		1 v 2 (Major Semi Final)	Sun, 17 Feb 08	
	Fri, 25 or Sun, 27 Jan 08		3 v 4 (Minor Semi Final)	Loser Major Semi Final v Winner Minor Semi Final	
	WEEK 2		SEMI FINAL 2nd LEG	WEEK 4	GRAND FINAL
		Fri, 8 or Sun, 10 Feb 08	1 v 2 (Major Semi Final)	Sun, 24 Feb 08	
		Fri, 8 or Sun, 10 Feb 08	3 v 4 (Minor Semi Final)	Winner Major Semi Final v Winner Preliminary Final	

ALL TIMES LOCAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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LACING UP



GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL COACHES' CORNER CHAPTER 3: DRIBBLING

FOR COMMUNITY COACHES WHO ARE INVOLVED WITH PLAYERS AGED BETWEEN 5 AND 10, THE BELOW ACTIVITIES CAN FORM PART OF YOUR TEAM'S TRAINING SESSION.

Coaches need to provide opportunities for kids to practice dribbling. This is so they can learn the right 'touch' of the ball to allow them to run at the desired speed without tripping over the ball and to keep their heads up while doing so. The more they do it at training, the more it transfers to the game.

ZIG-ZAG CONES



Running start



Cones closer / further away

Wait here until all players have finished, then repeat in opposite direction.

VARIOUS 'FREE' PRACTICES

Dribble around a square with your ball, on my signal ... e.g. stop ball dead with sole of foot; stop it then run to another ball and start dribbling again; change direction using the outside of your foot; etc.

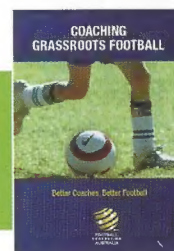
Coach can suggest dribbling variations: left foot only, right foot only, outside of feet only, inside of feet only, etc.



PROTECT AND POUNCE

Players dribble inside a square, protecting their ball from other players while trying to pounce on other players' balls (kick it out of the square). If successful in kicking one out of the square, award yourself a point. Call out 'winner!' when you get three points. When your ball is kicked out, fetch it then join in again.

Progression: when your ball is kicked out, stand just outside square and juggle till there is a winner, then all in to start again.



Extracted from:
Coaching Grassroots Football by Kelly Cross, FFA National Coach Education Manager. For more information go to www.footballaustralia.com.au.

DID YOU KNOW?



Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger admitted Man United coach Alex Ferguson annoys him sometimes.

YOUR NUMBER ONE FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

AUSTRALIAN January 2008

FourFourTwo

THE ULTIMATE FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

WENGER
"Ferguson annoys me sometimes"

EXCLUSIVE
JOHN ALOISI RELIVES HIS GREATEST GOALS

HERO'S WELCOME
Australia's returning stars pick their A-League verdict

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You go girls

The Matildas have received further recognition recently with captain Cheryl Salisbury and squad member Ellyse Perry collecting major gongs at the NSW Institute of Sport 2007 Awards.

Salisbury collected the Team Athlete of the Year award, while 16-year-old Perry was named Junior Athlete of the Year.

Salisbury led the Matildas to a historic quarter-final at September's 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup in China. Schoolgirl Perry had a remarkable year debuting for the Matildas in August while also appearing for the Australian women's cricket team. Matildas striker Sarah Walsh

was also a nominee for the Team Athlete of the Year award while Walsh's Matildas teammate Kate Gill was nominated for the Academic Excellence Award. The Matildas were also nominated for the Most Memorable Moment.

Last week, Matildas striker Lisa De Vanna became the first footballer to claim the WA Sportswoman of the Year Award, with teammate Collette McCallum also nominated.

Australian FIFA Women's World Cup Final referee Tammy Ogston was also recognised recently, winning the Officiator of the Year Award at the Queensland Sports Federation Awards.

WHAT THEY SAID

"It is only a small gesture but everyone here at the club wanted to wear black armbands on Friday night to pay tribute to Michael." Phoenix chief executive Tony Pignata speaks about the club's players wearing armbands last week in memory of fan Michael Webby, who died in an accident returning home from the LA Galaxy match.

"He's an energetic midfielder who can run from penalty area to penalty area and also scores goals." Football Operations Manager Gary Cole talks about Melbourne's new signing, Qantas Under 23s player Nick Ward.

SCORELESS

DRAW



For Scoreless Draw, every week *The Full90* asks a player from the Hyundai A-League to draw one of their teammates.



Jacob Timpano

As drawn by: Ruben Zadkovich (Sydney FC)

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7.30PM FRIDAY 14 DECEMBER 2007
WESTPAC STADIUM, WELLINGTON

Second-placed Roar make their first trip across the Tasman looking to complete a hat-trick of Hyundai A-League victories against the Phoenix this season.

New Zealand soil should hold no fears as the visitors triumphed 2-1 against their hosts when they met in Christchurch during the Pre-Season Cup.

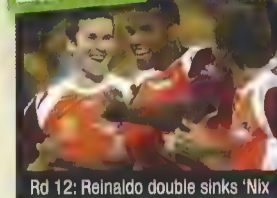
No team has had more shots on target than the Roar while Wellington have managed the least. At the same time, Queensland have allowed the fewest attempts on their own goal while the Phoenix have been the most generous. Hardly surprising then that Glen Moss is among the

competition's busiest goalkeepers. That should encourage Reinaldo and Robbie Kruse to let fly as Frank Farina's men look to build on last week's triumph over league leaders Central Coast Mariners.

Michael Zullo remains sidelined for the visitors through injury while Ante Milicic has left the club. Karl Dodd comes up against his former Roar colleagues while ex-Brisbane Strikers forward Shane Smeltz, scorer of two goals in last week's 3-0 win over Perth, will look to continue his pursuit of the Reebok Golden Boot.

Smeltz and Reinaldo are currently the biggest sinners for fouls in the Hyundai A-League with almost 70 between them.

LAST TIME



Rd 12: Reinaldo double sinks 'Nix

THE MEN TO WATCH



Name: Karl Dodd
Position: Defender

Ricki Herbert has persisted with Karl Dodd even though the club's defence has only kept Perth Glory at bay for a clean sheet this season. With just five rounds to go, now is the time for Dodd to stand up and be counted against one of the foremost strikers in the league in Reinaldo.



Name: Marcinho
Position: Midfielder

The Brazilian import took a long time to open his goal-scoring account for the club but it wasn't for the want of trying. No-one in the competition has had more shots and only Alex Brosque has had more on target. Scored the last goal in round 12's 3-0 win over the Phoenix at Suncorp Stadium.

AT A GLANCE

FORM

	RD	WP	QR
16	3-0(h)	2-1(h)	
15	1-2(h)	0-1(n)	
14	1-1(a)	0-0(a)	
13	1-1(h)	1-0(h)	
12	0-3(a)	3-0(h)	

FACT

The injured Michael Zullo marked his full Queensland Roar debut with a goal after just four minutes when these teams met at Suncorp Stadium in round seven.

PAST MEETINGS

Wellington (v QR):

P	W	D	L	GF	GA
2	0	0	2	1	5

Av goals = 3

At home (v QR):

This is the first Hyundai A-League meeting between Phoenix and Roar at Westpac Stadium. Roar won a Pre-Season Cup meeting 2-1 in Christchurch.

Most goals:

0-3 (Rd 12 07/08),
1-2 (Rd 7 07/08))

THIS ISSUE

22 STEVEN OLD

Young Old's one for the Phoenix future.

26 FAN STORY

An unlikely tale...

SIMPLE CONVERSION

STEVEN OLD HAS ALREADY PACKED FOUR CONFEDERATIONS INTO HIS FOOTBALLING CAREER AND HE'S ONLY 21 by Jon Ritson

When you're the son of a former New Zealand loose forward it must take some guts to reject your country's most famous sporting team. Steven Old's father Geoff proudly represented the All Blacks before moving into coaching but there was never any danger of the young central defender pulling on the legendary jersey.

"Dad was fine about it to be honest. I did play rugby for a while when I was 13 or 14 but it was always going to be football," says the Phoenix central defender. His footballing education has taken in stops in the Netherlands, New York and Newcastle but the 21-year-old insists he is by no means at the end of his journey.

going into that match and he had a great game. It's just his size and sheer brute strength. He's so strong in the air and it's very tough to get the better of him in that situation. If that wasn't enough you go from one extreme to the other with the pace of someone like Michael Zullo. They've got some quality attacking players in there.

How would you sum up your own contribution and where can you improve?

I'm fairly happy about most of the games, aside from the one where we lost heavily in Adelaide. It's just frightening how quickly the season seems to have gone so far. You only have to blink and there's just a few

"IT'S IMPORTANT WE TAKE THE GAME TO THEM HERE.

LET'S GET IN FRONT AND LET THEM DO THE CHASING"

Roar have beaten you twice this season Steven. How hungry are you for revenge this weekend?

Very hungry. We really owe them one. We came back from Brisbane with nothing both times and hopefully we can get one over them on our own pitch. We had to chase both matches after going behind and I think it's important we take the game to them here. Let's get ourselves in front and let them do the chasing. An early goal would be a massive boost.

Reinaldo scored twice in your 3-0 defeat at Suncorp back in round 12. What makes him such a handful?

We knew he'd be full of confidence

rounds left. As for improving, I definitely need to be more ruthless and more aggressive. I'm a fairly quiet, passive individual and I need to work on coming out of myself more on the field.

So maybe you need to practise snarling in front of the mirror?

[Laughs] Yeah, maybe that's not a bad idea. I suppose you just have to go out on to the pitch with a ruthless attitude. I'm working on it.

Tell us about your time as a player with St John's University in New York.

I went over there when I was 16 and it was just the best time. I loved the football and I loved New



York. It's the city of dreams. It taught me a lot. I'd go back there in a heartbeat and that's not just because the bagels are so good. Tony Lochhead was also in the States for quite a while. He's still got the accent!

You've just played the LA Galaxy. Does a spell in Major League Soccer appeal?

Definitely. It would be great to play over there again but then I'd also like to play in Europe at some stage.

You lived in Europe for a while didn't you?

My dad was the coach of the Dutch rugby team and I enjoyed my time over there. Playing in Holland would be

something that appeals to me as well. There are some great clubs over there. If I had the chance to play in England then I'd definitely go for Arsenal.

The Dutch aren't exactly renowned for their rugby are they?

They put up a good fight in the qualifying tournament for the 1999 World Cup but they lost 110-0 to England as well!

Talking of internationals, you're an All White not an All Black. What does it mean to play football for New Zealand?

It's what you dream of as a kid. I've captained the Under 17s, the U20s and the U23s. It



Fantasy transfers

Steven has no hesitation in choosing Juninho and Archie Thompson as the two current Hyundai A-League players he'd most love to see in Phoenix colours. "Juninho from Sydney FC would be the first pick because he's got great vision. I'd also have to go for Melbourne's Archie Thompson for his sheer pace and ability to skip past players," he says.

Festive Fun

How will you be spending Christmas Day this year?

At home with my family.

What's your favourite Christmas tune?

I'll have to go for *Jingle Bells*.

Do you carefully open presents or rip the paper off in a flash?

Oh, a 'ripper' every time.

Christmas Pudding. Yes or no?

I'll say yes. It's Christmas isn't it?

What would be the best Christmas present for the Wellington Phoenix this year?

To finish in the top four.

What would be your ideal present?

A new golf driver would be good.

Santa knows when you've been bad or good. Is there anyone at the Phoenix who doesn't deserve a present?

I'd have to say Costa Barbarouses for constantly wearing such appalling sunglasses.



"ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU'RE ON THE BENCH A LOT, BUT WHAT IT DOES IS MAKE YOU EVEN HUNGRIER TO PLAY AND YOU NEVER TAKE THE GAME FOR GRANTED"

would be great to captain the full side one day. Making my senior debut against Australia and playing Brazil in the build-up to the 2006 FIFA World Cup are things you don't forget.

You didn't choose rugby but we hear you're still pretty nifty with the oval ball?

Well, yeah I guess I can make some fairly good long passes and kick it a fair distance.

The Phoenix isn't your first Hyundai A-League club. How was your time with the Newcastle Jets?

Obviously I'd like to have played more but I think things happen

for a reason. Up until that point I'd always played wherever I'd been. All of a sudden you're on the bench a lot but what it does is make you even hungrier to play and you never take the game for granted. So I took something from my time there.

And how did you feel scoring against them earlier this year, your first goal in the competition?

It was a bit odd [a consolation in a 2-1 defeat]. I put the ball in the net but I thought the referee had already blown for full-time. It wasn't until later that I found out it had counted. You take any goal though, they all count. ■



Steven on...

How do you chill out away from football?

I love my golf and spending time at the beach.

If you could choose a superpower what would it be?

The power to be invisible.

If you were forced to sing karaoke what would you sing?

Leaving On a Jet Plane by Frank Sinatra.

Have you ever had a job outside of football?

Yes. I was a paper boy during my time in Holland.



Old mates Steven Old (above) and Stephen Old (above right), along with photos of them from the archive of the Manawatu junior club

Being Old

WELLINGTON FAN STEPHEN HAS A UNIQUE LINK TO ONE OF THE PHOENIX' LOCAL BOYS *by Jack Snape*

At *The Full90*, we're reluctant to divulge the surnames of the fans we speak to for privacy reasons, but this week is an exception.

Wellington Phoenix fan Stephen Old is from Palmerston North, plays football, and has spiky blonde hair. Wellington Phoenix defender

Steven Old is from Palmerston North, plays football, and has spiky blonde hair. Spooked yet? Now get this: the two have known each other for years, and

still catch up regularly when their paths cross.

Make no mistake, this is the eeriest fan story *The Full90* has ever seen...

So Stephen, why do you support the Phoenix?

I grew up in Palmerston North, which is about an hour and a half north of Wellington. Naturally being a New Zealander I aligned to supporting the Phoenix.

Did you follow the Knights as well?

No, no interest in the Knights to be honest. The main reason being that as a New Zealander I didn't see anything good about their representation of New Zealand. Whereas Wellington being regionalised gives them the opportunity to be a focused team, so Wellington can get behind them.

How do you think the season is going?

I think they've been really unlucky. They're not far away from Melbourne who won the competition last season. If they had a bit of good fortune I don't think they'd be where they are.

What kind of future do you expect for the club?

Already in the first year the Wellington Phoenix have proven that they can get the support. They've had good attendance, they've got a good stadium. Wellington is not a big place, it's quite easy to get around. It's not a big ask for the fans to get down to the ground to watch a game. In terms of moving forward I think Wellington as a place is able to attract any international player. It's a great city to live in, it's a vibrant place. They won't have any

problems attracting players so they'll be able to compete.

Do you think the Phoenix can attract support from the rest of New Zealand?

Definitely. Probably more than anything, it will open up the opportunity for other New Zealand franchises to bid for a place in the Hyundai A-League as it will no doubt expand in the coming years. But any New Zealander who is passionate about football will instantly identify with the Wellington Phoenix as the team to follow above any other.

Tell us about your unique Phoenix connection...

I think you'll be referring to my namesake. He's done wonderful things to my name! My mum always gets good comments about how her son is performing on the football field at the moment to which she always says, 'yes, fine, yes he is, he does do well'. He [Steven] is from Palmerston North and he and my younger brother played together in the same representative football side Manawatu. They started in about the under 11s and played a few seasons together.

Do you recall any mix-ups?

There was a period where both of us were playing in the New Zealand national league and a friend of mine's father was one of the national statisticians. He came up to me one day after a game and he was just too confused, he just didn't understand how I could possibly be on both team sheets. He knew I was from Manawatu and at the time Steve was playing for Manawatu and I was playing for North Shore United. ■



Kiwi Kewell

Which Australian would you have liked to have been a Kiwi?

Harry Kewell. I'm a fairly staunch Liverpool supporter and it's nice to see him back wearing the red shirt. If he'd been a New Zealander, I think things would have been quite different for our national team.

Think he could have got you over the line against the Solomon Islands a couple of years back?

I do think so yeah! To have players like that come back and represent the national team builds up the other players. In small countries you don't have a large number of players playing off-shore so definitely you're going to have a young squad of players. To bring someone with the stature of Harry Kewell back would make everyone stand up and be counted in those kind of games.

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KICK OFF

Your essential match day info

COACH'S COLUMN



FAREWELL RUDES



SYDNEY FC

AFTER SYDNEY FC'S COURAGEOUS DISPLAY LAST WEEKEND, **JOHN KOSMINA** THIS WEEKEND FAREWELLS A CLUB LEGEND

Character is one of the most important ingredients in a successful football team. In fact it is one of the most important ingredients in any competitive environment. Last Friday night the Sydney FC players showed they have the type of character to go a long way.

Down to 10 men in a game we had to win against an opponent already inside the top four, the players dug deep to claim a tremendous result.

From the moment Ruben Zadkovich disappeared up the tunnel after the red card we lifted. We lifted our intensity. We lifted our tempo. We lifted our desire. We showed our character.

In the 92nd minute, 40 minutes after going a man down, Mark Rudan chased down a lost cause ball to get in behind the defence. He looked

up to see Terry McFlynn and Alex Brosque with him in the penalty area.

Terry in turn looked up to see Steve Corica making a desperate late run to the far post and the rest is history.

opportunity to wish Mark Rudan all the best in the next chapter of his career in Japan.

Big Rudes has been great since I arrived here and it is his commitment and passion that has helped shape the character

"I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE FOR LONG BUT THOSE WHO HAVE ALL AGREE MARK RUDAN HAS BEEN FANTASTIC"

We wanted it more and we got the result.

I also got to see for the first time the intensity of the passion in the supporters at Sydney FC. It's not something you really take notice of when you are coming to a ground as the away coach but the delight on the fans' faces when we scored the winner was fabulous.

Sydney FC is a football club heading in the right direction on the field and in the stands.

I would also like to take this

I have been speaking about. After all, it was his decision to chase down the ball that won possession and inspired his teammates to make the runs into the box that led to the winner.

I haven't been here for long but those who have all agree Mark Rudan has been fantastic. I'm sure his teammates will send him out a winner tonight.

John Kosmina

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CLUB NEWS

WISHING TREE APPEAL



Sydney FC is urging fans to get behind the Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal to brighten the day of children

receiving assistance from the Salvation Army.

Steve Corica, Mark Rudan and Robbie Middleby kicked



SYDNEY FC

off donations by presenting three signed Sydney FC shirts, which will be wrapped and handed to three lucky kids on Christmas morning.

The Salvation Army is trying to gather 90,000 presents across NSW.

To participate in the appeal, leave a gift under the Christmas Wishing Tree located at the front of any Kmart store. Take a gift tag from the tree to identify the appropriate gender and age of a suitable recipient and place it with your gift. The 2007 appeal will run through to Christmas Eve.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CLINICS ON AGAIN



Sydney FC is taking bookings for its popular School Holiday Clinics through the Christmas/New Year holidays.

Sydney FC will run two separate clinics at the club's training venue at Macquarie

University as well as Centennial Park in the Eastern Suburbs. At both events there will also be two separate clinics, one for ages 6-10 and one for 11-16.

The four-day clinics will see kids receive training designed to foster a friendly atmosphere for kids of all ages and talent levels with an emphasis on progressive skills and small-sided games.

All children who attend the clinics will receive a Sydney FC training kit including shirt, shorts and socks as well as a certificate of participation, show

bag and football plus a junior GA ticket to the blockbuster clash with Melbourne Victory at the Sydney Football Stadium on 20 January.

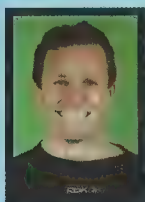
The clinics run for four days from 9am-1pm (Mon-Thur) and cost \$220.

Dates:

January 14-17
for 6-10 year olds

January 21-24
for 11-16 year olds

For more information contact Chris Tyrrell at christophert@sydneyfc.com or on 02 9387 4233.



1 CLINT BOLTON

Pos Goalkeeper DOB 22/08/75
Regarded as one of the finest goalkeepers in the Hyundai A-League, this polished professional is one of Sydney FC's most important players.



2 IAIN FYFE

Pos Defender DOB 03/04/82
Can be deployed in the centre of defence or at fullback and has been a regular starter for Sydney since the inception of the Hyundai A-League.



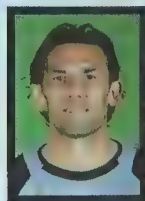
3 NIKOLAS TSATTALIOS

Pos Defender DOB 01/03/90
A specialist left fullback and former member of the NSW Institute of Sport, this nimble local is one of the competition's youngest players.



4 MARK RUDAN

Pos Defender DOB 27/08/75
Powerful central defender and former club captain who led Sydney FC to the championship in the Hyundai A-League's first season.



6 TONY POPOVIC

Pos Defender DOB 04/07/73
Former Qantas Socceroos defender who has returned to his hometown club. A dominant man-marker, he has been named club captain.



7 ROBBIE MIDDLEBY

Pos Midfielder DOB 09/08/75
Incredibly versatile flank player who was one of Sydney's best last season. One of the squad's few natural wide players, he is a vital squad member.



8 RUBEN ZADKOVICH

Pos Midfielder DOB 23/05/86
This Qantas Under 23s representative has added the ability to play right fullback to his game in the last year. Prides himself on his stamina.



9 DAVID ZDRILIC

Pos Striker DOB 13/04/74
Powerful striker who has been a key member of the Sydney side for more than two years. Played in Europe for almost a decade.



10 STEVE CORICA

Pos Midfielder DOB 24/03/73
One of the Hyundai A-League's elder statesmen, this classy playmaker has been at the heart of Sydney's attack for two seasons.



11 BRENDON SANTALAB

Pos Striker DOB 09/09/82
Quick, hard-working forward who joined his hometown club after spells at Belgian sides Oostende and Sint-Truiden and Hungarian club Ujpest.



12 PATRICK

Pos Striker DOB 26/03/85
Quick and skilful import who is also good in the air. Patrick began his career with São Paulo and has since played for several big Brazilian sides.



13 BEN VIDAIC

Pos Striker DOB 29/01/88
A promising local striker who has played for the Qantas Young Socceroos. With a good touch for a big man, he offers Sydney an excellent plan B.



14 ALEX BROSQUE

Pos Striker DOB 12/10/83
Agile striker with extreme acceleration and fine technique, the Hyundai A-League is still waiting for Brosque to bring his A-game for a full season.



15 TERRY MCFLYNN

Pos Midfielder DOB 27/03/81
Battling midfielder never afraid to get his boots dirty, he famously earned his Sydney FC contract in the final open trial prior to the club's first season.



16 MARK MILLIGAN

Pos Defender DOB 04/08/85
Had an outstanding Asian Cup before two mistakes led to Australia's elimination. An A-grade prospect with the all-round ability to play in midfield.



17 JACOB TIMPANO

Pos Defender DOB 03/01/86
Injury plagued last season for this promising central defender. Keen to make a big impact this year with a Qantas Under 23s spot beckoning.



18 ADAM CASEY

Pos Midfielder DOB 01/05/86
Young attacking midfielder or forward and member of the Qantas Under 23s, this fleet-footed local will be dangerous off the bench this season.



20 IVAN NECEVSKI

Pos Goalkeeper DOB 25/02/80
Solid goalkeeper backup to number one Clint Bolton, this Sydneysider is with his third Hyundai A-League club in three seasons.



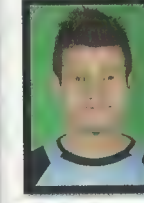
21 ADAM BIDDLE

Pos Midfield DOB 27/07/88
Promising right midfielder plucked from the NSW state leagues to be the squad's third under 20 player and add some depth to the flanks.



22 JUNINHO

Pos Midfield DOB 22/02/1973
FIFA World Cup winner in 2002, this supremely gifted, diminutive playmaker is endowed with superb vision and uncanny dribbling ability.



23 UFUK TALAY

Pos Midfielder DOB 26/03/76
Outstanding ball-playing midfielder with a decade of experience in Turkey. Talay is one of Sydney FC's most creative outlets.



28 MICHAEL BRIDGES

Pos Striker DOB 05/08/78
Former teammate of Harry Kewell and Mark Viduka at Leeds United, Bridges is a skilful striker and formerly an England Under 21 representative.



COACH JOHN KOSMINA

A former Australian international player, Kosmina coached Adelaide to last season's Grand Final before taking on the Sydney FC coaching job halfway through this season.



SYDNEY FC

SYDNEY FC

		SEASON				TODAY
NO.	NAME	APPS	GOALS			
2.	Iain Fyfe	15	0	2	0	
3.	Nikolas Tsattalos	4	0	0	0	
4.	Mark Rudan	14	0	4	0	
6.	Tony Popovic	12	1	1	1	
7.	Robbie Middleby	11	0	2	0	
8.	Ruben Zadkovich	11	0	5	1	
9.	David Zdrilic	10	0	2	0	
10.	Steve Corica	12	1	0	1	
11.	Brendon Santalab	10	0	2	0	
12.	Patrick	8	2	1	0	
13.	Ben Vidalc	1	0	0	0	
14.	Alex Brosque	14	6	2	0	
15.	Terry McFlynn	9	0	1	0	
16.	Mark Milligan	10	0	1	0	
17.	Jacob Timpano	0	0	0	0	
18.	Adam Casey	6	1	0	0	
19.	Mike Enfield	1	0	0	0	
21.	Adam Biddle	5	0	0	0	
22.	Juninho	11	0	1	0	
23.	Ufuk Talay	15	2	3	0	
28.	Michael Bridges	6	1	2	0	

GOALKEEPERS

NO.	NAME	APPS	CS			
1.	Clint Bolton	14	6	1	0	
20.	Ivan Necevski	0	0	0	0	
30.	Matthew Nash	1	1	0	0	

TEAM SCORE

Half-time

Full-time



PERTH GLORY

		SEASON				TODAY
NO.	NAME	APPS	GOALS			
2.	Nikolai Topor-Stanley	12	0	1	1	
3.	David Tarka	1	0	0	0	
4.	Simon Colosimo	14	0	3	0	
5.	Jamie Harnwell	14	6	2	1	
6.	Dino Djulbic	15	0	1	1	
7.	Anthony Danze	8	0	1	0	
8.	David Micevski	6	0	2	0	
10.	Billy Celeski	9	1	2	0	
11.	Stan Lazaridis	0	0	0	0	
12.	Leo Bertos	10	0	3	0	
13.	Nikita Rukavytsya	14	4	0	0	
14.	Jamie Coyne	14	1	1	0	
15.	Mitchell Prentice	15	1	4	0	
16.	Nick Rizzo	7	0	0	0	
17.	James Downey	12	0	2	0	
18.	Hayden Foxe	1	0	1	0	
19.	Naum Sekulovski	10	0	1	0	
21.	James Robinson	13	1	2	0	
22.	Jerry Karpeh	2	0	0	0	
25.	Tyler Simpson	10	0	3	0	

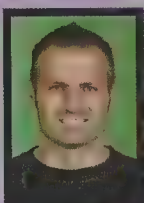
GOALKEEPERS

NO.	NAME	APPS	CS			
1.	Jason Petkovic	0	0	0	0	
30.	Tando Velaphi	7	1	0	0	
50.	Tommi Tomich	9	3	0	0	

TEAM SCORE

Half-time

Full-time



**1 JASON
PETKOVIC**

Pos Goalkeeper DOB 07/12/72
A distinguished keeper with overseas club and international experience, he is still recovering from the broken leg he sustained last year.



**2 NIKOLAI
TOPOR-STANLEY**

Pos Defender DOB 11/03/85
Powerful ex-Sydney defender who is equally comfortable on the left or in the centre of defence. Important member of the Qantas Under 23s.



**3 DAVID
TARKA**

Pos Defender DOB 11/02/83
WA boy and AIS graduate with intimidating defensive presence. Winner of Perth's players' player of the year award last season.



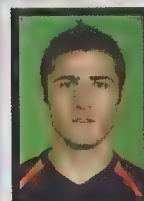
**4 SIMON
COLOSIMO**

Pos Midfielder DOB 08/01/79
The main cog in the Glory midfield, new captain Colosimo is an anchoring midfielder with a terrific range of passing. Key to Perth's success.



**5 JAMIE
HARNWELL**

Pos Striker DOB 21/07/77
Experienced enforcer equally at home at the back or in attack. A battering ram with a sound footballing brain, watch out for Harnwell at set pieces.



**6 DINO
DJULBIC**

Pos Defender DOB 16/02/83
Another Perth-bred defender with a reputation built in the WA and Victorian state leagues. He has been signed after a successful 2006 trial.



**7 ANTHONY
DANZE**

Pos Midfielder DOB 15/03/84
Returned to Perth after two unlucky years with injuries at Crystal Palace in England. Powerful athlete with ability to get into scoring positions.



**8 DAVID
MICEVSKI**

Pos Midfielder DOB 25/02/86
Perth local with a growing reputation as a skilful midfielder. In his third year at the Glory, Micevski will be looking to cement his place in the side.



**10 BILLY
CELESKI**

Pos Midfielder DOB 04/07/85
After a season in the Victorian state league this skilful ballplayer has been given another chance with the Glory after his stint here in 2005/06.



**11 STAN
LAZARIDIS**

Pos Midfielder DOB 16/08/72
After injuries spoiled last season, Stan is resolved to show Australia in 2007/08 why he has earned 57 Qantas Socceroo caps.



**12 LEO
BERTOS**

Pos Midfielder DOB 20/12/81
Kiwi whose speed and flair left their mark on the competition last season. No player created more goals than he did in 2006/07.



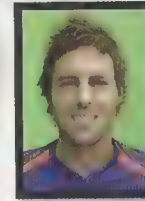
**13 NIKITA
RUKAVYTSYA**

Pos Striker DOB 22/06/87
AIS graduate who notched up two goals at the end of last season to prove his worth. An elusive goal-poacher, this could be his breakthrough year.



**14 JAMIE
COYNE**

Pos Defender DOB 01/01/81
A versatile and technically sound fullback, Coyne will deliver quality service to his attackers all day and is a key member of the Glory squad.



**15 MITCHELL
PRENTICE**

Pos Midfielder DOB 02/03/83
This AIS graduate can fill in a range of roles in midfield. After stints in Scotland and Malaysia he is hungry for Hyundai A-League success.



**16 NICK
RIZZO**

Pos Midfielder DOB 09/06/79
Still remembered for his time at Liverpool a decade ago, Rizzo is now determined to prove to Australia his worth as a skilful winger.



**17 JAMES
DOWNEY**

Pos Midfielder DOB 19/10/87
Supreme young athlete with flexibility to play anywhere along the right flank, this AIS graduate is better known to his teammates as Jimmy.



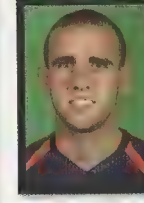
**18 HAYDEN
FOX**

Pos Defender DOB 23/06/77
A ball-playing central defender with stints at Ajax and in the English Premier League, Foxe is a massive acquisition for the Glory.



**19 NAUM
SEKULOVSKI**

Pos Midfielder DOB 14/05/82
With a shoulder injury having hampered his 2006/07 campaign, this technically adept creative wide man is hungry to make this season count.



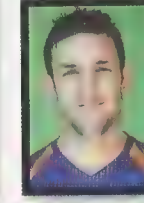
**21 JAMES
ROBINSON**

Pos Striker DOB 18/09/82
Scorer of the goal that earned Melbourne their home grand final, this mobile attacker is keen to prove the Victory were wrong to let him go.



**22 JERRY
KARPEH**

Pos Striker DOB 16/06/84
Signed mid-season after a stellar season in the WA Premier League with Floreat Athena, booting 25 goals to claim the golden boot award.



**25 TYLER
SIMPSON**

Pos Defender DOB 28/08/85
A tall right or central defender from NSW, Simpson was signed as cover for the injured David Tarka. Was on the books of the Roar in 2005/06.



**30 TANDO
VELAPHI**

Pos Goalkeeper DOB 17/04/87
This agile WA native exploded onto the scene in Rd 20 last season, holding the Victory at bay for the Roar. One of Australia's best young goalkeepers.



**50 TOMMI
TOMICH**

Pos Goalkeeper DOB 02/04/80
Called in as injury cover last season, Tomich was impressive in the closing rounds. His physicality in the area has strikers looking over their shoulders.



**COACH
DAVID MITCHELL**

As a player, Mitchell was a Qantas Socceroo, scoring 15 goals in 44 appearances. As a coach he has experience in the NSL and as Glory assistant prior to landing the top job.



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7.30PM FRIDAY 14 DECEMBER 2007
HINDMARSH STADIUM, ADELAIDE

One victory apiece for the teams this season as John Aloisi returns to his home city for the first time since joining the Hyundai A-League. Aloisi scored twice the last time these teams met, his first goals for the Mariners, and will be a danger to Adelaide's patched up defence.

It is a fixture over which neither team can really claim domination although the visitors have only managed one previous win at Hindmarsh – the 2006 Preliminary Final.

Central Coast's full-backs will be in for a testing afternoon as they bid to shut off the ammunition supplied by Richie Alagich and Cassio while Adelaide will

have to find answers to tough tackling duo Mile Jedinak and Nigel Boogaard, the latter a recent injury concern.

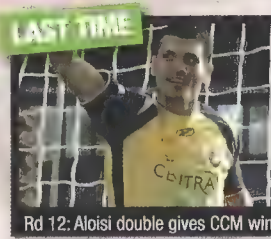
The Reds welcome back defenders Milan Susak and Isyan Erdogan from their bans while the Mariners

have midfielder John Hutchinson and striker Sasho Petrovski back from suspension.

Nathan Burns' hamstring strain last week puts a question mark over his involvement but boom striker Bruce Djite is fit again for the Reds after

two months on the sidelines.

This clash should be fiercely competed as the two clubs top the effective tackles table with more than 400 apiece.



Rd 12: Aloisi double gives CCM win

THE MEN TO WATCH



Name: Isyan Erdogan
Position: Defender

Versatile 25-year-old Melbourne who recently signed a new contract with United. Impressed sufficiently during a trial spell in the Pre-Season Cup games and offers Aurelio Vidmar a number of different options. Will be hoping for a chance to test himself against John Aloisi and co.



Name: Greg Owens
Position: Midfielder

The former Adelaide United man returns to Hindmarsh looking to help his club avoid a second defeat at the hands of the Reds here this season. Netted his first goal for the club with a cracking strike in round 13's 1-0 win at Perth Glory. The 26-year-old can play in almost any position on the pitch.

AT A GLANCE

FORM		
RD	AU	CCM
16	2-2(a)	1-2(a)
15	2-1(a)	P-P(h)
14	1-1(h)	0-0(a)
13	1-1(h)	1-0(a)
12	0-2(a)	2-0(h)

FACT

Adelaide forward Dez Giraldi spent four weeks with the Mariners during the inaugural Hyundai A-League season but never actually appeared for the Gosford club.

PAST MEETINGS

Adelaide (v CCM):

P	W	D	L	GF	GA
9	4	2	3	12	11

Av goals = 2.55

At home (v CCM):

P	W	D	L	GF	GA
5	2	2	1	7	5

Av goals = 2.4

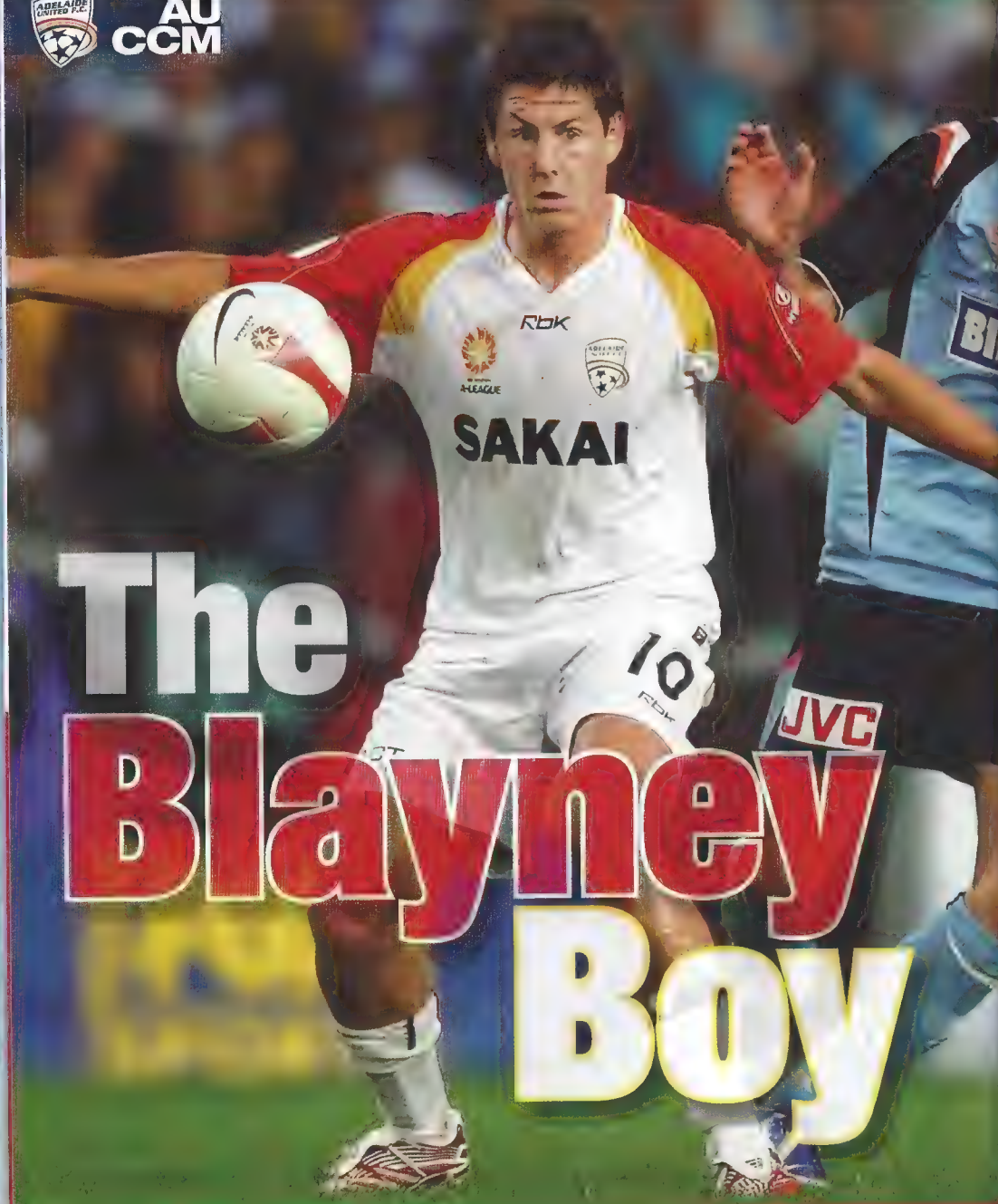
Most goals:

3-1 (Rd 7,
Rd 14 06/07)

THIS ISSUE

40 NATHAN BURNS
By road Blayney is 240km from Sydney and 1138km from Adelaide. *The Full90* informs again!

44 MILAN SUSAK
into Milan's world we go, discovering just whose cooking he can't live without.



The Blayney Boy

NATHAN BURNS SPENDS PLENTY OF TIME IN THE AIR THESE DAYS, BUT SAYS HE'S AS DEDICATED AS EVER TO KEEPING HIS FEET ON THE GROUND *by Richie Young*

Pressure comes part and parcel with professional sport. But some players, such as Nathan Burns, seem to be dealt an even bigger share. Fairly or unfairly, Burns has had to live up to the lofty expectations of media and fans since he burst onto the scene during the 2006/07 season.

The Full90 caught up with the gifted 19-year-old, to see how he is coping with life as a fully-fledged Hyundai A-League star.

How are you enjoying the season this time around?

The second year is always a lot tougher but the team has had a pretty good start. We went through a bit of a slump, but I think we're picking it back up at the moment.

Do you read all the stuff that's said about you in newspapers and magazines?

You try not to but sometimes it's not easy to avoid these things. You have to try and keep a cool head but you do hear a lot of different things and it is difficult. I suppose it's part of the game.

Does Aurelio give you advice on that front?

Yeah, Viddy has been through it himself so he can give you good advice. It's important for our media manager Dom Rinaldo to look after me as well. As long as they're doing their jobs - which normally they are [laughs] - then it's not a problem for me.

How do you think you're going form-wise compared to last season?

I think I've had a pretty similar season to last year. I went through some ups and downs last year but no-one expected much from me so there was no pressure. This year I've probably had a better season,

but there is also more expectation. Hopefully I'll get a good run as we go into the Finals Series because that's when it really counts.

Where do you see your strengths in the game?

I'm still pretty young and I've got a fair bit of experience but I just try and be as consistent as I can. If you can get that part of your game right that's how you can stand out.

What aspects of your game do you want to improve?

Viddy has said my distribution and passing could be better. I do attempt killer passes and sometimes they don't come off so I've got to make sure I get the percentage right on those.

How is your body? You looked a bit tired towards the end of last season.

I have my ups and downs. It depends how I've played that week. If you play a great game you can't wait for the next one but if you have a stinker and the team loses, you can lose a bit of motivation.

It's been a tough season physically but I don't think it's the games. It's more the travelling. In Europe they play 50 or 60 games a year but they don't travel as much. I think it's taking its toll on a lot of the Olympic boys too.

Which match has been the biggest highlight for you?

It was probably in the AFC Champions League when I scored a goal against Shandong Luneng away in China. Playing overseas for a Hyundai A-League team is excellent.

Have you watched a lot of the Mariners this season?

Yeah, I definitely watch whatever I can. They're one of those teams



Round Jason's!

What will you get up to for Christmas?

I don't think Viddy wants to give us too much time off over Christmas! But hopefully I'll be able to get home and celebrate Christmas with my family. I couldn't get home last year.

What did you do last year?

Bruce and I went around to Jason Spagnuolo's. Being an Italian family, they cooked up this massive meal and we smashed it! There was cold meats, salads... it was fantastic. He's got a pretty big family - it was a great day.

What happens in the Burns household?

The majority of my family are still in Blayney so they just take turns whose house it's at. I'm not sure whose house it will be this year. Normally there's a turkey, cold meats... I just turn up and enjoy the presents and the food.



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who are well-organised and know how to get the win. Sometimes they don't play the best football but if you look at Adelaide in the first season they didn't play great football. Melbourne ground out results... it's all about victory at the end of the day.

Have you spent much time with John Aloisi?

Yeah, when I was at the Singapore [AFC Asian Cup] camp I spoke with John a lot as I was very close to Ross [Aloisi]. I got advice from him and he also came and spoke to us during our Olympic campaign. We had a coffee and a chat. He's a great guy and a good role model. He smashed two goals against us last time, so he's already got a nice highlight in this league!

Who did you room with in the Qantas Under 23s?

I've roomed with Dave Williams and Leigh Broxham but last time there was four to a room so there

was me, Sanks [Kristian Sanks], Adrian Leier and Dez Giraldo.

What's David Williams like?

Dave is in Denmark and he plays pretty much every week. He recently scored a double so he's doing well for the first team over there. He's an '88' so he's a player to watch for the future.

And '88' refers to the year he was born?

Yep, 1988. We kind of call ourselves that because we were all born in that year. Me, Willo, Matt Spiranovic, Leigh Broxham, Kaz Patapia... We're the young ones in the Olympic squad!

Are you trying to put Beijing out of your mind now... until it gets much closer?

It's hard to forget because of all the preparation we've got. Annie wants to have a lot of games before then. It's a massive event and I think we'll be able to use it as motivation for our clubs.



Nathan tells all...

Want to dob in any of your United teammates for anything?

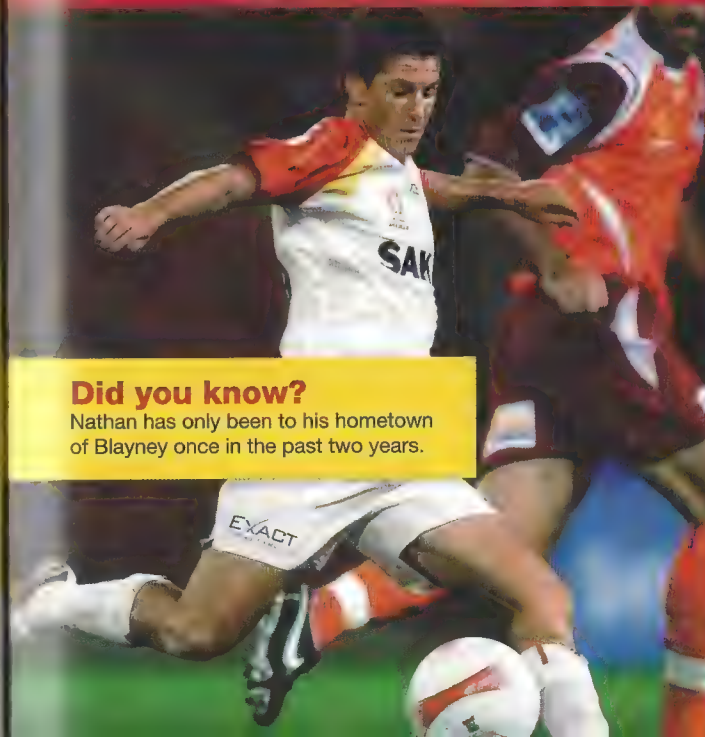
[Laughs] Please just write that Shaun Ontong is the hottest kid in Adelaide. He'll love it.

And it's true Shaun cuts everyone's hair? [Shaun recently told The Full90 that he's the team's resident hairdresser.]

Yeah, that's true. He's very good too. He's never done hairdressing but he's still good at it. All the boys in our team knew about it but I don't think the players from the other teams would have!

So has Bruce Djite been up to much lately?

Let's just say I haven't seen a lot of Bruce lately. He's been spending too much time with his girlfriend...



Did you know?

Nathan has only been to his hometown of Blayney once in the past two years.

MILAN MARVEL

MILAN SUSAK IS COOKING WITH GAS AT ADELAIDE UNITED BUT HIS HOUSEMATE'S THE ONE DISHING UP THE CULINARY DELIGHTS *by Jan Pitsen*

Milan Susak's stomach has a big reason to celebrate. Isyan Erdogan agreeing a new deal with Adelaide United. It means that he won't need to place an ad for a new housemate boasting gastronomic greatness. "He's amazing mate," says the

23-year-old United defender. "You name it and he'll cook it for you. His risotto's pretty special and you can't beat his pasta. He's brilliant in the kitchen. Oh, and he cleans up around the place as well." Having a gourmet pre-match meal hasn't done Susak's

chances of first team football any harm and he's hungry for further action with Aurelio Vidmar's men. The next item on the menu? The Central Coast Mariners.

Memories must still be fresh of John Aloisi's double in the

Mariners' 2-0 win in round 12?
Yes. We weren't aggressive enough from the start and it looked like they wanted the three points more than we did. That's what happened and we suffered the consequences. It's a mistake we can't afford to make again.

What makes Aloisi such a handful for defenders?
He's a very experienced player, he's performed for Australia and in some of the world's best leagues. He holds the ball up, uses his body well and generally pumps up his team. You can't afford to let your concentration drop because you know he can do a lot of damage. Hopefully we'll keep him quiet this weekend.

How much help have you had from fellow defenders Michael Valkaria and Ange Costanzo this year?
They've been great. Michael's obviously been injured for most of the season but he's been great to talk to. He's been happy to praise me for the things I've done right and point out things I could do better. Ange has also been talking to me out on the pitch. You'd be stupid not to listen to people with experience like that.

So how do you view your own strengths and weaknesses?
I think I've been pretty strong in the air, winning my headers and stuff. I think my tackling's been okay as well. The passing and distribution side could be better but then you're always looking to improve as a footballer. I think a run in the side always helps too. The more you play, the more it gives you a chance to build your confidence and get into a rhythm.

You're now a Red but you could have been at Perth Glory this year?
I had a trial spell with Perth before

the season started and felt I did well there. But they brought in Hayden Foxe as their big signing.

Interesting that he got injured so early on then?
I suppose so but I don't really look back. I've joined a really well-run club with a great group of boys. We spend time with each other away from the club. I like chilling out and going for a coffee with the likes of Diego and Daz [Giraldi].

You played in Serbia before heading back to Australia. How was that?
It was a good experience but different from the Hyundai A-League. The football here is a lot quicker and there's more of a physical aspect to it. In Serbia it was slower and more about technique, but you have to adapt to the surroundings you're in. That's the way to improve.

You left Australia as a teenager. Did you play for anyone here before your Italian adventure?
Yeah. I was with Sydney Olympic when they were coached by Frank Arok. He taught me a lot and a couple of the other youngsters from that time have done well. Adam D'Apuzzo at Newcastle and Trent McLennan who is part of the Qantas Under 23s squad.

You've seized your chance but who else in the Adelaide United squad would you tip as 'one to watch' for the future?
Shaun Ontong. He trains really, really hard and does all sorts of extra stuff after the session. You can tell he wants it really badly.

What about the former team future for you?
I'm just concentrating on doing well for Adelaide United right now. I'm happy here and enjoying my football. ■



Milan on...

Which teammate would you least like to hear on Australian Idol?
I'll say Diego. I've heard him singing some of his Brazilian songs.

What was your favourite book as a child?
It was called *Goosebumps*, a collection of ghost stories.

When did you last give to charity?
About a week ago. It was for a cancer research charity.

What makes you laugh?
Diego's pink shoes. They'd make anyone laugh.

What makes you angry?
Losing. That always makes me angry.

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7PM SATURDAY 15 DECEMBER 2007
SYDNEY FOOTBALL STADIUM, SYDNEY

John Kosmina's men will look to extend their unbeaten run against Perth Glory to nine games as Dave Mitchell's side visit Sydney Football Stadium for the first time this season.

History suggests a tight contest with four of the last five encounters ending all-square.

Ruben Zadkovich is suspended following his dismissal against the Jets while Nikolai Topor-Stanley's red card against the Phoenix means he misses out against his old club.

Jamie Harnwell's red card in the same match leaves him sidelined while Mitchell Prentice's fourth yellow card of the season rules him out.

Mark Milligan could be the man chosen to keep a close eye on form striker and Qantas Under 23 colleague Nikita Rukavytsya.

Round eight's 3-3 draw in Perth was the exception rather than the rule on the

goals front. The two teams had managed just five goals in the four games they had contested prior to that.

Alex Brosque scored the only goal the last time Perth visited Sydney and he will be looking to add to the double he bagged

back in round eight.

Juninho's shin injury rules him out while Glory skipper Simon Colosimo is a major doubt with a hamstring tear.



THE MEN TO WATCH



Name: Mark Rudan
Position: Defender

One of Sydney FC's greatest performers, Rudan plays his 50th Hyundai A-League match this weekend. If that

wasn't enough to secure him an impressive ovation, maybe this is: he leaves Sydney FC after this match to play under Pierre Littbarski at Japanese club Avispa Fukuoka.



Name: Hayden Foxe
Position: Defender

Sydney-born Foxe was one of Perth's biggest off-season captures. After early (and mid...) season injury woes, he finally saw

action last weekend. One of the most talented Australian defenders of his generation, he has played at Ajax in Holland and West Ham in England, but has always had injury problems.

AT A GLANCE

FORM

RD	SFC	PG
16	1-0(h)	0-3(a)
15	P-P(a)	3-1(h)
14	0-0(h)	1-1(a)
13	1-1(a)	0-1(h)
12	0-0(a)	4-1(a)

FACT

Sydney face four consecutive away matches from now on before finishing the season at home to Melbourne. However, they are yet to lose away from the Sydney Football Stadium this season.

PAST MEETINGS

Sydney (v PG):

P	W	D	L	GF	GA
8	3	5	0	10	7

Av goals = 2.12

At home (v PG):

P	W	D	L	GF	GA
3	1	2	0	2	1

Av goals = 1

Most goals:
3-3 (Rd 8 07/08)

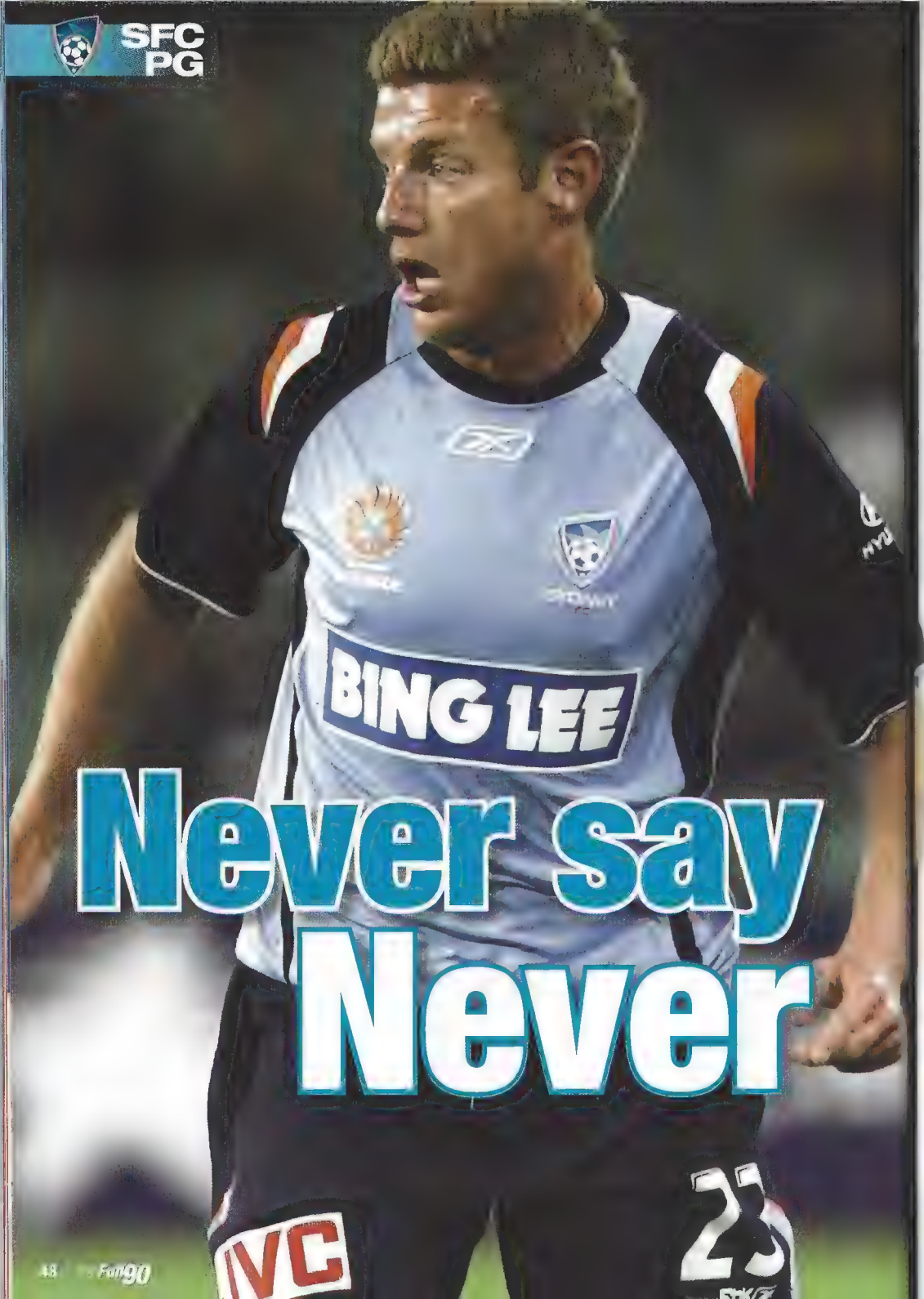
THIS ISSUE

48 UFUK TALAY

Ufuk Talay used to play for Cabramatta Police Boys Club.

52 ADAM BIDDLE

Harmse crushed his arm, and Biddle lost his calm. We talk to the real star of the Galaxy match.



Never say Never

SYDNEY FC'S UFUK TALAY IS MR. DEPENDABLE. UNFORTUNATELY THAT'S NOT THE ONLY TAG WHICH HE'S BEEN GIVEN

by Jon Ritson

Ufuk Talay talks about football in much the same way as he plays it: economically. An uncomplicated playmaker with precise passing abilities, this Sydney FC veteran has played on some of the grandest stages of all, most notably with Galatasaray in Turkey. But having missed season one's Grand Final, and with international ambition still burning, Ufuk Talay is primed for a big finish to the season.

You recently notched up your 50th Hyundai A-League appearance for Sydney FC...

Yes, it's nice to have reached that number but hopefully there'll be more to follow.

You missed out on the first Grand Final, how was that?

Yes. I got injured towards the end of the season and missed

out on the win over the Central Coast Mariners. It was great for the club but obviously very disappointing for me that I couldn't play.

Steve Corica scored the winner of course and you two go back a long way together don't you?

Yes we do. We were both at Marconi when I was starting out as a player. He's an important player for us. To have people like him and Juninho in a squad is a bonus for any club. I'm just glad they're both here.

Did you know Josip Skokovic has labelled you the best player never to have played for Australia?

Yes. I've got to thank him for that little quote. I suppose it's a sort of bittersweet compliment in a way. I think it was a case of

being out of sight and out of mind a little bit. I left to play in Turkey when I was only 17 and maybe the football authorities in Australia at the time weren't really sure where I was. But maybe I should have been in touch with them. I don't know.

Do you still believe you can play for Australia?

Look, you never give up on your dreams in football. I'll keep working hard and doing my best for Sydney FC. If the new coach decides that I'm worthy of selection for the national squad then I'd be delighted. We'll just have to see.

Talking of internationals how pleased are you to see the Qantas Under 23s heading for the Olympics?

It's great for Australia to be involved in major tournaments. ▶



Talay's Turkey

What will you be doing on Christmas Day?

Just enjoying the occasion with my family.

What would you like Santa to bring you for Christmas?
I'll say a holiday.

What would be the best present for Sydney FC?
Winning the Grand Final.

Do you have a favourite Christmas film?

Not a specific one. Just those traditional ones where some kind of miracle occurs.

Obviously we're really pleased here for Millsy [Mark Milligan] and Ruben Zadkovich. I thought Millsy did a great job leading the team and the Olympics will be a great experience.

Perth Glory are the visitors this weekend and you've yet to beat them this year.

We had two draws over in Perth. The second game saw us come back from 3-1 down to get a 3-3 draw and I think that shows you that there is character in the side. Hopefully we can get all three points this time in front of our own supporters. We haven't won as many games at home so far as we'd have liked. Perth had a bad start to the season but they've a good squad and plenty of players that can hurt you.

There has been criticism that Sydney FC have too many 'old' players this year. What do you make of that?

I don't think age is the issue at all. If you're good enough and you're contributing to the team then you should play. I was with Tugay when I played for Galatasaray. He's now 36 or 37 and playing in the English Premier League with Blackburn Rovers. Players are looking after themselves far better and playing on much longer.

Being of Turkish descent were you pleased to see Turkey qualify for the Euro 2008 finals?

Yes. They had a good win in Norway to get there and obviously I'd love to see them do well in the tournament itself.

England missed out though. Have you given Michael Bridges a bit of stick?

Let's just say he got to hear about it a few times at training!

Did you know that you

topped the Hyundai A-League fouls list at one stage this season?

[Laughs] Yes but didn't I get overtaken by Mile Jedinak at the Mariners? We both play in that holding midfield role and sometimes you're the man that has to stop the opposition getting through. You do what you have to do to prevent the other team scoring. I'm certainly not a dirty player and I never go out there with the intention of kicking anybody. Sometimes you just end up committing a foul to stop them getting through.

You've been Sydney's penalty king this season. Do you enjoy that responsibility?

I suppose there's pressure in that situation and some players like that, others don't. I like the challenge. I scored a last-minute goal in our 1-1 draw in Wellington earlier this season. Then again I missed one in the



"YOU DO WHAT YOU CAN TO PREVENT THE OTHER TEAM FROM SCORING, BUT I NEVER GO OUT THERE WITH THE INTENTION OF KICKING ANYBODY"

AFC Champions League against Shanghai. You just have to back yourself in that situation.

What's the secret to being a good penalty-taker?
I think everyone is different. For me, I tend to make my mind up early where I'm going to put the ball and I stick to it. I think there's probably some truth in the view that you're more likely to miss if you change your mind.

Penalties aside you've not exactly been a prolific scorer for Sydney FC...
I was joking with the lads after my penalty at Wellington that that was my quota for the season. No, I'd like to get a few more and especially from open play.

Anyone in the team you'd dread to see stepping up to the penalty spot?
No. I think the other players would all be pretty confident. I'm

sure there's a few queuing up behind me waiting for a chance to take one if I miss anyway.

The LA Galaxy game must have been a great experience for Sydney FC...
I've played in front of big crowds but this was one of the biggest. It's great for football in this country and great for Australia.

How will football history judge your fellow midfielder David Beckham?
There's people who look at all the publicity that surrounds him but you don't get to play for Real Madrid unless you're a really good player.

Which of your fellow Hyundai A-League midfielders do you like testing yourself against?
I'd have to say the two lads at Queensland Roar, Matt McKay and Massimo Muroccca, they're always buzzing around in there. ■



Green and gold factory

While Ufuk has yet to win a full international cap, many of his former teammates have had the honour. He started his career at Sydney's Marconi club where his teammates at various stages included Mark Schwarzer and Harry Kewell. Alex Brosque also played for Marconi as did Hyundai A-League coaches Frank Farina and Gary Van Egmond.



Ufuk on...

Who is your best mate at Sydney FC?

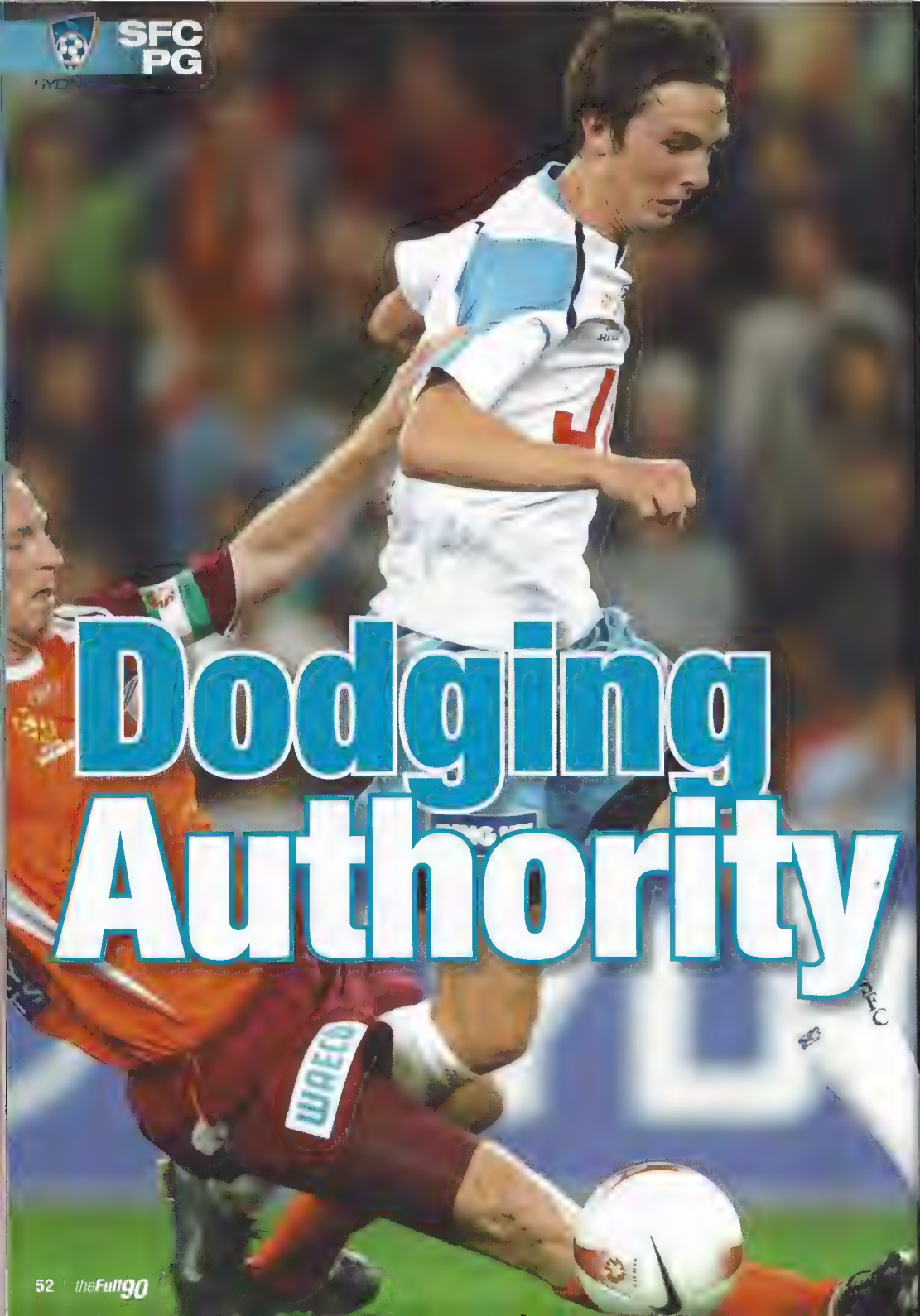
I get on with my roommate Mark Rudan. Our families went on holiday to Fiji at the end of last season.

Who is the funniest member of the squad?

I'd have to say David Zdrilic.

Who is the most famous person you've ever met?

I met the President of Turkey during my time over there and a few of Turkey's top singers as well.



RISING SYDNEY FC STAR ADAM BIDDLE KNOWS WHEN TO STAND UP FOR HIMSELF – HE ALSO KNOWS WHEN TO HIDE! by Richie Young

Sydney FC's match against LA Galaxy had plenty to get the pulses racing. In just his first season as a Hyundai A-League player, 19-year-old Adam Biddle was given the honour of starting the match. While David Beckham earned the headlines, Biddle's tussle with Galaxy defender Kevin Harmse wasn't far behind. Adam re-lived the memorable night with *The Full90*...

Mate! What was the aftermath of the Beckham match like for you?

Everyone I know has been asking me what the atmosphere was like and how it feels to play in front of 80,000 people! I remember walking down the tunnel for that game and I had pins and needles going through my whole body. It was nerve-racking for the first 10 or 15

half [on Juninho] was worse, I was right in front of that and it was pretty out of order. With the stomping, it's not really part of the game but I suppose it's just the way he plays. From what I gather he's one of those typical defenders that just doesn't want to take any crap. I think when Brendon Santalab went into Becks, Harmse just got a little geed up. We play hard here, but not dirty.

Did you speak to Harmse after the game?

Nah! We did go back to Star City after the game and some of the Galaxy boys were in the bar as well. Some of our boys were joking around and asking whether Harmse was around in case he wanted to go for round two! I don't know what his reaction to it all was. But I was chatting to some of the Galaxy

changing room and he just told me to relax or something and how it was a friendly. But he had a cheeky smile... I have a sneaking suspicion he liked it. I think I needed to get that aggression out and show that I can get stuck in there. If I hadn't done anything, it would have sent a message that I could be walked over so I stood up for myself. All in all, I'm glad I reacted like that and am glad I didn't get sent off. I remember Mark Shield and his assistant – they were talking and I thought I was gone so I was hiding behind someone! I'm sure the crowd got a bit excited, it was all good.

Other than that, what has been the biggest crowd you've played in front of?
It was probably round one against the Mariners [18,457]. To tell you the truth I was a bit nervous in that game and I think it got the better of me. But now that I've played in front of 80,000 I'm a bit embarrassed that I was nervous in front of that crowd!

So you're enjoying life as a Sydney FC player?

It's absolutely brilliant mate. Starting out you have to earn all the boys' respect but once you've done that you really start to settle in. The players, coaching staff and everyone have been absolutely brilliant. I couldn't have asked for anything else.

Were you a fan of the team?

I was yeah. I'd been to a fair few games and when I was in

**"I REMEMBER MARK SHIELD AND HIS ASSISTANT
– THEY WERE TALKING AND I THOUGHT I WAS
GONE SO I WAS HIDING BEHIND SOMEONE"**

minutes but then I kind of forgot about the crowd.

A lot of my mates have asked me about the incident with Kevin Harmse saying I should have clocked him one! Look, I reacted to him but it was a little inappropriate really... His first tackle was fine but the stomping was what I reacted to. I thought his tackle in the first

guys and they were all happy to be here and they were thrilled with the game. They seemed like good guys.

Becks wasn't there?

No he wasn't! He was probably up in his room... if he was I'm sure it would have been a frenzy.

What did Kossie say to you about it?

[Laughs] I walked back into the



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Did you know?

Adam has a less than two-minute drive to get to the team's training ground at Macquarie University.

The season last season I was thinking how I really wanted to play. I was lucky enough to get a gig. I'd spent half a season out at Blacktown with an injury and I couldn't picture myself with Sydney so soon.

Who have you been mainly hanging out with?

All the boys have been good. We all get along as a group really. If we go out after a game I hang out with the younger guys mainly but all of the boys are brilliant.

So you feel like you can mix it with these guys on the playing front?

At the start you have to adapt to the speed of the game and get your touch right but once you get those things right you just work your way into it and try out ways to beat a man. I haven't quite got there yet - I just have to work on my pace and touch and hopefully it will come.

What would you say your strengths are?

Probably taking on a man. I usually play out wide so that suits me best. I like taking someone on, maybe cutting it back and whipping a ball in. My speed and vision are good too, I think. I like to add a bit of aggression to my game and just have a go. I like playing anywhere on the right. I have played in the middle before and I played up front in round one but that was the first time I'd played there in years.

What has Kossie been like to work with?

He's brilliant. You have to prove your worth again to a new coach but he's been good. He's taken me aside a couple of times and told me what to work on and how I can go about it. It looks like he's enjoying it and he's getting on with all the other coaching staff. Everyone's pretty happy. ■

OFF THE PITCH



What do you get up to away from football?

I like to surf as much as I can. And I don't mind the odd round of golf, even though I'm not very good at it. I just like relaxing and hanging with mates.

Which beach do you go to?

Always the northern beaches. Usually Mona Vale or north Curlly. I haven't had much of a chance to get out there lately.

Best and worst subject at school?

The best was health without a doubt. The worst was easily maths. I had to drop it in year 11 because I just couldn't stand it.

What's your nickname?

We had a trialist for a few weeks and he asked me what my nickname was, so I told him 'Bidz.' We were playing possession and then all of a sudden I hear this 'Beads!' I was thinking, 'what's this guy doing?!' Ever since the boys have been calling me Beads.



The Captain

DESPITE KEVIN MUSCAT'S REMARKABLE CAREER, HE STILL INSISTS HE'S JUST ONE OF THE BOYS... by Richie Young

Whether you love him or just really, really like him, Kevin Muscat is one of the biggest personalities in the Hyundai A-League. A player who has always led by example, Muscat's competitive drive has regularly tested referees and opposition players – but it's this very trait which has made him one of Australia's most successful players.

Hey Kevin, you were given an assistant coach role at Victory earlier this season. How is that working out?

It's working out no different to the first season and no different to the second season to be honest. I still do exactly the same things, which is why there's been no fuss about it. I still certainly consider myself to be one of the boys. I'm enjoying that side of it but it hasn't changed my day-in, day-out relationships with a lot of the younger guys.

The season hasn't gone so well so far. Is there anything you can put it down to?

This season has been difficult but you'll always have your good and bad. We got our plaudits last year, and when things aren't going so well it's something you take on board collectively. I don't think there's one thing you can put it down to.

By no means am I going to rattle off excuses because that won't do. But we haven't always had the same team, we've been patching up the defence and that weakens the midfield or patching up the midfield and that weakens the defence. We've had to deal with that

all season but that's one of the things you have to get over. There have been a number of games where we've felt we've been in control but haven't got the goal at the right time and subsequently haven't got maximum points, but there's certainly enough in our squad to still make the Finals.

You've drawn and lost against the Jets this season. How will the team prepare?

You don't treat any team in isolation. We will go over previous games and previous meetings but the majority of our stuff relies on doing things exactly as we did last year. It's more about what we do because you have to back yourself. If you take into the weekend what you've been doing during the week at training, you should be okay.

What was your impression of them in those games though?

They're a good side. I don't think you can take any team in the competition lightly. They've got a result against us twice and it was the same last year. It's certainly one we'll look at to get a result because it wasn't a nice feeling to be beaten at home.

What position do you prefer playing these days?

Obviously I was always predominantly a full-back and I thoroughly enjoyed that, but I also enjoyed last season playing in the centre of the park. It's a matter of where you can do a job for the team. I also like playing in the centre of a back

three as a centre half. When things are going well, you enjoy wherever you're playing!

The club recently signed Nick Ward. How much have you had to do with him?

I saw a lot of him in the first season when he was with Perth ▶



Either, or...

Comedy or action?
Action.

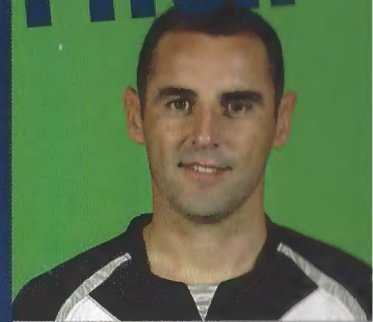
Books or magazines?
Neither.

Roasts or BBQs?
That's a tough one. Both.

Apples or oranges?
Apples.

Kylie or Dannii?
Both!

OFF THE PITCH



You recently had a plaque dedicated to you at St Albans in Melbourne...

Yeah I did. I grew up there. The council did it. Mark Viduka and myself grew up in the area. I went down there and took some photos. It was a nice bit of recognition and I hadn't been back there for quite some time. It was touching to go back to the roots and see all the roads I used to ride down on my bike to get to school and all that. It was humbling.

Does Dukes know about it?

I'm not too sure actually. I think they tried to get him back for it but when they couldn't get him they settled for me! But I represented both of us and he wouldn't have minded too much!

How's the poker going?

Pretty good... well okay! I had a game with Shane Warne and Joe Hachem recently for the Shane Warne Foundation. I didn't make anywhere near the final table for the tournament because there were 140 starters. I must have got halfway but that was probably about it.

I'll always be disappointed but I won't look back with regret. It was bittersweet. Dennis Wise pushed me up front when we went out for the game so I hobbled out. That I am grateful for but with missing the game, I'll be disappointed until people stop mentioning it! Like yourself!

Tim Cahill was also in that side. Did you know he'd go on to be such a big player?

Of course. Like I said, there aren't a lot of players who can get from box-to-box with a knack of scoring goals. He's mastered that and that's why he's gone and done what he's done. He's always got a lot of goals. He worked so hard from a young age and that's something that should be respected.

You commented on the Sydney FC vs LA Galaxy game recently. Did you enjoy that?

Yeah it was a bit of fun. But it was also a lot harder than it seems! I don't mind having an opinion on things when you're sitting up there and that's what you're asked to do. It was nice to see the other side of the fence but obviously I'm now back concentrating on football. We've got to be at our best for the rest of the season now.

But did you get nervous beforehand?

Not really! It was just something that was a bit different. A lot of my mates were playing. Tony Popovic was ringing me up during the day and winding me up and I saw Stevie Corica at the game. I wouldn't say I was nervous but like anything you do you just want to do a good job.

Have you watched it back?

No I haven't yet! I haven't been brave enough! ■



"THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF GAMES WHERE WE'VE FELT WE'VE BEEN IN CONTROL BUT HAVEN'T GOT THE GOAL AT THE RIGHT TIME..."

Glory and I've seen a bit of him in the Qantas Under 23s. He's got a style that is very hard to come by because he's one of the few players that can get box-to-box. He'll get himself dirty in defence but he's just as willing to get in the attacking box and try to nick a goal.

I recall him scoring a few goals in that first season and he's just come off the back of a successful campaign with the Under 23s. He put his position [at his previous club] in jeopardy playing for his country and I have admiration for that.

What's been the highlight of your career so far?

It's very difficult to pinpoint one. One that does stand out is scoring the goal when we beat Uruguay [in 2001]. There was also the year I was at Rangers [in Scotland] when we won the treble, and getting promotion to the [English] Premiership at Crystal Palace and playing at Wembley. And then there was reaching the FA Cup Final with Millwall, being a side from the Championship [second division]. It's just difficult to isolate but it would be a mix of those.

You missed the FA Cup Final with Millwall through injury - does that drive you on at all?

Of course you think about it but it doesn't inspire me to do certain things or put things right.

Have you missed a player like him this season?

I'm not going to put any unnecessary pressure on him but what I will say is that he's a very good signing for our club.

Out of 10

Kevin rates himself...

As a cook	2
School student	5
Blackjack player	8
As a striker	3
Punctuality	7



Did you know?

Kevin is good friends with Tottenham star Robbie Keane.

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The Full90 has challenged the finest minds from the grounds around the league with taxing trivia about their favourite Hyundai A-League club. Why not challenge yourself: can you do better than these fans?

Questions



Mel, 23



Dave, 30



Matt, 13



YOU!

- Who is the only Melbourne player to have played every match in a season?
- How many goals did Danny Allsopp score in the Hyundai A-League's first season?
- Who is the youngest player to ever play for Melbourne?
- In which round was the Victory's biggest ever loss?
- What was Melbourne's longest run of clean sheets last season?
- For which overseas club did Adrian Caceres first sign?
- Which member of Victory's coaching staff has competed at the Olympic Games?
- From which club was Leandro Love signed?
- Who debuted for Melbourne Victory in round 19 vs. Perth last season?
- Which Victory goalkeeper played the most games in season one?

✓	✓	✗
✓	✗	✓
✗	✗	✓
✓	✓	✓
✗	✗	✗
✗	✓	✗
✓	✓	✗
✗	✗	✗
✗	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓

TOTAL SCORE

5

6

5

ANSWERS 1. Michael Ferreira (season one - 19 apps + 2 subs) 2. Three 3. Sebastian Ryall 4. Rd 21, 06/07 (0-4 vs. NJ) 5. Two matches 6. Southampton (England) 7. Adam Basil 8. Vissel Kobe 9. Leigh Broxham and Antun Kovacic 10. Eugene Galekovic



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TO ADVERTISE CALL:
02 8908 2221
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IN MY OWN WORDS

JACOB TIMPANO
LOVES SPIDER-MAN,
BUT STILL CALLS
ALIENS FREAKS



INSTANT EXPERT

- Number 17
- Date of birth 03/01/86
- Weight 86kg
- Height 189cm
- Position Defender

What makes me laugh is when I spend time with Sasho Petrovski

I'm proud of my family because they have always supported me during highs and lows

When I win the lottery I will buy beachfront homes in Wollongong for all my family

My worst haircut - I don't cut my hair

I felt the most pain when Anthony Crea smashes me!

My earliest memory is sleeping

My dream partner would have the whole package

If I met an alien, I would say 'you're a freak'

My guilty pleasure is lollies

I envy David Beckham

If I was a super-hero I'd be Spider-Man

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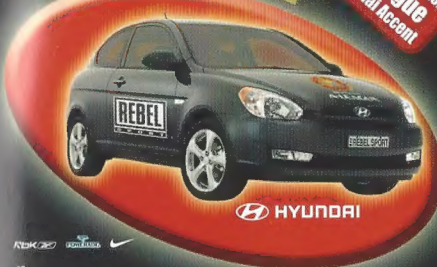
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